Airports operational in HP

1493. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports in the State of Himachal Pradesh which are operational;

(b) whether Indian operates flights to all these airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports at Kullu, Kangra and Shimla are operational in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Air Deccan operates daily scheduled air services on Delhi-Kullu-Delhi sectors. M/s. Jagson Airlines also operates scheduled services on Deihi-Kullu-Delhi sector besides Delhi-Shimla-Delhi and Delhi-Kangra (Gaggal)-Delhi sectors.

Fate of HAL Airport

1494. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what the fate of the HAL airport will be once the international airport at Bangalore becomes operational from 2008;

(b) whether the HAL airport will be used commercially or returned to HAL; and

(c) by when Government propose to take a decision on this as lack of decision gives rise to wild rumours which affect the real estate market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) HAL airport at Bangalore belongs to Ministry of Defence where Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a

Civil Enclave for civil aircraft operations. After commissioning of the new airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore, the HAL airport will be closed for commercial civil aviation operations.

(c) Does not arise.

International airport at Kannur, Kerala

1495. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the processing and finalization of the decision about building a new international airport at Kannur, Kerala;

(b) the reasons for the delay in finalizing a decision on this; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had been advised to obtain clearances from Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment and Forest for further processing of the proposal. A status report in the matter is awaited.

Development of airstrips by private parties

1496. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports for which Government are allowing private players to develop airstrips;

(b) the conditions laid out for these private parties to set up airstrips in airports; and

(c) whether Government will allow private parties to develop their own airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Two Greenfield Airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad are being developed in the private sector in accordance with the Airport Infrastructure Policy, 1997.